

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 01885 301602Z

61

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 OIC-02 /124 W

----- 002330

R 301452Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8105

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, UN, ECLA, XL, TD, CU

SUBJECT: SPECIAL LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN

REF: A) POS 1500; B) POS 1524; C) POS 1879 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH GOTT PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS JULY 29 HE DISCUSSED PLANNING FOR AN ECLA MCOMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND THE RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS RECENT FOREIGN TRAVELS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 01885 301602Z

2. THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT JULY 25

THAT HE HAD ARRANGED WITH ECLA SECRETARY GENERAL IGLESIAS TO CONVENE A MEETING IN PORT OF SPAIN OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 1 UNDER THE AUSPICS OF THE NEW CARIBBEAN COMMITTEE OF ECLA TO DISCUSS CARIBBEAN LAW OF SEA MATTERS.

3. DR. WILLIAMS EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT THIS MEETING WOULD BE OPEN TO THE NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS OF ECLA WHO HAVE INTERESTS AND TERRITORIES IN THE CARIBBEAN. HE HAS WORKED OUT WITH IGLESIAS A FORMULA FOR INVITING ALL STATES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NEW PORT OF SPAIN OFFICE OF ECLA, PLUS THE NON-REGIONAL ECLA MEMBERS, AND THE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES. THIS FORMULA WOULD STILL EXCLUDE THE RIPARIAN STATES TO THE SOUTH, AND IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE A LATER MEETING TO INCLUDE THEM AFTER THE ISLAND STATES AND TERRITORIES HAVE FIRST CONSULTED TOGETHER IN OCTOBER.

4. WILLIAMS SEEMED SENSITIVE TO THE USG FEELING THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO EXCLUDE THE NON-REGIONAL ECLA MEMBERS FROM THE CARIBBEAN COMMITTEE AT THE TIME OF ITS FORMATION, AND HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WANTED THE USG FULLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMITTEE'S WORK ON A PROPOSED SPECIAL LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN. THE OCTOBER MEETING IS TO BE AT THE LEVEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON LAW OF SEA MATTERS, WITH BACKGROUND PAPERS TO BE PREPARED BY THE UN LAW OF SEA STAFF. DR. WILLIAMS NOTED THAT, AS THE LEADER OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT, HE DID EXPECT TO BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED, BUT ONLY TECHNICAL LEVEL EXPERTS WERE EXPECTED FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED ME THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FAVORABLE RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON JUNE 26 TO HIS PROPOSALS FOR THE CARIBBEAN, HE HAD RECEIVED STRONG ENDORSEMENT FROM THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT AND FAVORABLE RESPONSES FROM THE UK. HE HAD NOT YET CONTACTED THE FRENCH, SINCE HE DID NOT GO TO PARIS ON HIS RECENT TRIP, BUT INTENDED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM SOON. JAMAICA, HE SAID, WAS IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH TRINIDAD ON THIS ISSUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 01885 301602Z

6. DR. WILLIAMS EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT CASTRO HAD NOT BEEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE GOTT PROPOSALS, SINCE CUBA IS SEVERLY ZONE-LOCKED BY THE FORMULAE EMERGING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LOS NEGOTIATIONS. HE INDICATED THAT HE DID WIN CASTRO'S LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL CARIBBEAN ARRANGEMENT, AND NOTED THAT CASTRO'S STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT CONCEPT WAS

DIRECTLY INTENDED AS A POLITICAL GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PACIFIC COAST AND SOUTHERN CONE STATES IN SOUTH AMERICAM.

7. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAD GONE TO CUBA PROPOSING THAT THE ECLA MEETING ON CARIBBEAN LAW OF THE

SEA BE HELD IN HAVANA. HOWEVER, CASTRO HAD INDICATED THAT HE COULD NOT HOST A CONFERENCE IN HAVANA WHICH WOULD SEEM TO ENDORSE U.S. SOVEREIGNTY OVER PUERTO RICO, BUT CUBA COULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCE SOMEWHERE ELSE. WILLIAMS WAS FIRM IN STATING THAT THE USG SHOULD BE INVITED BECAUSE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS. THE FACE SAVING SOLUTION IS FOR THE PROCEDURAL FIRST MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMITTEE OF ECLA TO BE CONVENED IN HAVANA SEPTEMBER 1-4. NON-REGIONAL ECLA MEMBERS ARE NOT BEING INVITED AND ONLY THE FORMALITIES OF ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE AND SETTling PROCEDURAL MATTERS ARE ANTICIPATED. THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION WOULD BE THE LOS SESSION IN PORT OF SPAIN.

8. DR. WILLIAMS SEEMED PLEASED WITH THE MOMENTUM WHICH HAS BEEN SUSTAINED ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR A SPENIAL CARIBBEAN LOS REGIME, ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THERE ARE MANY DIFFICULT DETAILS TO BE RESOLVED AND THAT THE RIPARIAN STATES MUST STILL BE BROUGHT INTO THE DIALOGUE AT A LATER STAGE.  
RICH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTO01885  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750263-0681  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975078/aaaaagzx.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 PORT OF SPAIN 1500, 75 PORT OF SPAIN 1524, 75 PORT OF SPAIN 1879  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPECIAL LAW OF THE SEA REGIME FOR THE CARIBBEAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PLOS, XL, TD, CU, UN, ECLA, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006